

# Organization?

When he finished the delegates representing the six Atlantis province schools at the conference walked out together. They spent the rest of the day caucusing among themselves and with other delegates, sounding out the possibilities of eventually joining the national body.

(The delegation from Memorial University of Newfoundland later wrote to the remaining delegates wishing them well and hoping MUN could join at a later date.)

Immediately after the eastern walkout, most of the 11 Quebec delegations left. Chairman Boisvert left with them, to be replaced by David Dick from U.B.C.

"We've got to start somewhere," Simon Fraser representative and steering committee member Michael Warsh said. "We must continue to form this organization and by starting small we will build our strength. I urge the remaining delegates (mostly from Ontario, the prairies and B.C.) to remain and proceed."

And proceed they did. Through more than five hours of seemingly endless wrangles over amendments to the proposed constitution, some major, but most minor. The constitution was not finally adopted until late Sunday morning.

(Cameron left the meeting after the walkout because he had lost the his credibility with the remaining delegations. He did not play a major role in the conference again until Sunday during the central committee, when he ran and was defeated twice for member-at-large and for treasurer.)



The remaining delegates changed the proposed name of the organization from National Association of Students to National Union of Students. The word "association" was retained in the French for translation purposes.

They also adopted Declaration of the Canadian Student, which formerly served as part of the Canadian Union of Students' constitution.

In the context of this year's struggle against the government-ordered fee increases and student



award difficulties, the declaration seemed particularly appropriate. It includes the clause, "The Canadian student has the right to be free to continue his education without any material, economic, social or psychological barriers, created by the absence of real equality of essential conditions."

Delegates beat back an attempt to cut the number of general NUS meetings from two to one per year

by a vote of 16-28-18.

In a controversial move, they added a by-law which requires one half of all NUS standing and special committees be composed of women. The vote was 24-16-8 with such traditionally conservative student councils as University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon campus and York University voting for it.

They also ruled that community colleges must be represented on committees in the same proportion as their NUS voting power.

Only 24 institutions were left when the constitution was approved. The walkouts cut the size from 51 to 39 and other schools left to catch trains or to catch the attractions of Ottawa.

Schools which stayed throughout the conference and indicated interest in joining NUS and which went on record as approving the constitution were U.B.C., Simon Fraser, University of Victoria, Columbia College, Caribou College, Vancouver City College, Camosin College, Douglas College, Capilano College, and New Caledonia College from British Columbia; the University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon and Regins campuses; The University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg; the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Vic-

toria College of University of Toronto, Glendon College, Atkinson College, Lakehead, Trent, Carleton and York universities, the universities of Ottawa, Windsor and Guelph, along with U of T part-time students' council, all from Ontario; and Champlain CEGEP from St. Lambert Quebec.

Except for brief appearances, the University of Alberta student council reps left after the chairman addressed them in French. The U of T undergraduate council reps played no role, although they popped in and out from time to time.

Quebec's Vanier CEGEP and John Abbott CEGEP left observers throughout.

All Atlantic schools appeared willing to negotiate further and said they would return to their student councils to discuss it. An Atlantic student union conference will be held Nov. 18-19 in Charlottetown and the NSU will be on the agenda.

NSU central committee representatives are Warsh from B.C., Roy Ellis and Gerry Trinker from Saskatchewan, Jack Kushnier from Lakehead, Ontario, and members-at-large Teri Ball from U.B.C. and Lin Gibson from University of Manitoba, Russell Freethy from University of Victoria was elected treasurer.

The committee is trying to organize a policy conference for February when it hopes a significant numbers of institutions will have joined NUS through referendums. Only resolutions which have received three weeks notice before a meeting can be considered NUS policy. Otherwise they must be approved by member student councils after the meeting.



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